

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

**Personal and Literary.**  
—Three hundred delegates from foreign countries attended the Literary Congress in Paris.

—Dr. J. G. Holland lives on a pine-clad promontory at Thousand Island Park, on the St. Lawrence River.

—Mayne Reid, some years since a popular writer of novels and stories for youth and a resident of New York, is now engaged in the more lucrative occupation of sheep-raising in England.

—Mr. Robert T. S. Lowell, brother of James Russell Lowell, and himself a poet and author of no small powers, proposes to break a silence of nearly 20 years' duration by the publication of a novel and a poem.

—Col. Higginson describes Turgeneff as having the most distinguished appearance of any literary man he has ever seen. To say that he has Longfellow's face upon Summer's figure gives a rough impression of him.

—A copy of the Mentz Bible, printed by Gutenberg in 1455—being the first book ever printed—was sold at auction in Paris last June for \$10,000. It is printed on vellum, but is not quite perfect, several portions having been restored in fac-simile.

—A recent visitor to Westminster Abbey noticed two bouquets of handsome flowers upon Dickens's grave, and beside them a more affecting tribute to the dead novelist—a little posy of dog-daisies and wild hyacinths, slightly faded, as if it had been brought from a distant country lane in a hot, ungloved hand.

—Rev. W. H. Milburn, the blind preacher, has returned to this country after an absence of two years in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. In the course of his travels he delivered 600 lectures and sermons. Mr. Milburn intends to lecture the coming season on what he saw in England and Scotland.

—In a letter to the Rev. H. Seymour of Northampton, Mass., the late William Cullen Bryant wrote: "In two calendar months from the time of beginning with the powers of the Greek alphabet I had read every book in the New Testament." Such rapidity in Greek was ahead of that recorded by Macaulay and John Stuart Mill in regard to themselves. The Hon. W. E. Gladstone, of Homeric fame also, does not touch it.

—The lecture business is in the main managed by two concerns—one in New York and one in Boston. The latter makes contracts for concerts and operas as well. The manager says that only the most attractive lecturers are now much in demand, and that dramatic readers find more favor than formerly. Last year Beecher traveled 28,000 miles and lectured 139 times. He has already arranged dates for next season. Wendell Phillips spoke 120 times, and, next to Beecher and Gough, made more money than any other lecturer. Mrs. Mary A. Livermore received \$18,000, and is traveling in Europe to recuperate. Helen Potter, with readings and imitations, also did well. Burdette, the Burlington *Hawkeye* humorist, lectured 113 times. James T. Fields, Gen. Banks, and Robert Collyer had all the calls that they could respond to. Theodore Tilton had his own agent, and is said to have cleared \$19,000.

**School and Church.**  
—Four successive speakers at the Pan-Anglican Conference the other day were: their lordships of York, England; of Bombay, India; of Saskatchewan, North America; and of Bloemfontein, South Africa.

—The Bishop of Manchester says that some of the English clergy are so poor that they do not taste meat more than once or twice a week, and are glad to get the cast-off clothing of their parishioners.

—Mrs. Patterson, wife of the Rev. Dr. Patterson, of the Highland Universalist Church in Boston, will not go to Europe with her husband this summer, but will supply his pulpit while he is absent. She is said to be a fine off-hand preacher.

—Dr. Payne, now President of Ohio Wesleyan University, formerly pegged shoes for his living in Providence, R. I. He is one of the most popular ministers in the Methodist Church, and has been pastor of several of the most fashionable churches.

—The best of our American colleges bear no comparison in the strength of their faculties with the German universities. The University of Leipzig, for the present year, has a corps of 123 professors, 46 tutors, and 68 assistants. This university has 2,800 students.

—In Great Britain there is an ordained minister for every 673 of the inhabitants. In this country about 700 is the number that falls to each preacher. China would require more than 400,000 ordained missionaries to stock it in the same proportion. Dr. Duff estimated that to fully supply India would require the entire ministry of Scotland, and many pious laymen beside.

—Chicago claims a population of half-a-million, and her Bishop Cheney, in discussing church failures to reach the masses, declared that only 50,000 were actual worshippers in Chicago sanctuaries. The Bishop recommended large and cheap places of worship, that poor churches would not soil and that would leave so strong contrast between the Sunday and the Sunday homes of the poor.

—Prof. John W. Mears, writing of college rowdiness, says that it is almost wholly connected with the dormitory system, and that it is kept up because students think they must do as students have done before them. He adds: "No circle in America is more dominated and tyrannized over by established opinion. The unwillingness of individuals to differ from classmates and collegemates amounts to a clear case of moral inability. That independence which would be applauded as manliness in other circles is liable to receive the deepest brand of unpopularity here."

**Science and Industry.**  
—The rear teats of a cow produce a milk richer in cream than the forward ones.

—A Connecticut plow factory is making 5,000 plows to fill an order from South America.

—The ice factory in Knoxville is turning out seven tons per day at one cent per pound.

—The aggregate value of the petroleum exported from this country was \$62,000,000. In 1861 it was \$1,000,000.

—A cotton-mill with 10,000 spindles and employing 200 hands will begin operations in Vance, S. C., in October.

—An Indiana farmer advises planting a few hills of broom-corn, as experience has taught him that for tying shocks or binding fodder this is very much preferable to twine or rye straw.

—A North Carolina inventor, William A. Went, of Davie County, has constructed a switch which gives the engineer of a train power to close it without stopping, if it has been left open before him.

—Wisconsin's offer of \$10,000 for a successful steam road-wagon has produced one which has hauled a wagon weighing 3,500 pounds over the 201 miles from Fort Howard to Madison in 33 hours, or over six miles an hour.

—Miss Bertha Olsen is superintendent of a "Silk Society" in Rockville, Kane County, Utah. The society owns a lot, has planted 10,000 mulberry cuttings, besides a large quantity of seed, has built a silk-house, and has raised plenty of eggs from live dozen imported silk-worms.

—Wood peeling—that is, stripping the bark off oak and larch—is a business in Scotland. Between May and July some 2,000 men, women and children, chiefly Irish, have been employed at this. The wages, which in the last 10 years have been more than doubled, range from 80 cents to \$1 for men to 25 to 30 cents to children, but large importations from abroad have diminished the price of bark 20 to 25 per cent.

—The cultivation of the opium poppy which has hitherto been exclusively confined to the East, bids fair to become thoroughly established and remunerative in Eastern Africa. Seeds of the best kinds have been imported from Malwa into Mozambique, where 50,000 acres of uncultivated State land have been granted to a company with a capital of \$900,000 for the purpose of cultivating and trading in opium.

**Haps and Mishaps.**  
—At Holly Springs, Miss., during a recent storm, James Briggs, aged 16, and Louise Malice, aged 14, were struck by lightning.

—At Hagerstown, Md., at a pigeon-shooting match, Samuel Donahue, aged 50, was shot dead accidentally by Wm. Cokenour.

—At Thornton, Ind., Tom Casey, aged 16, while carelessly handling a revolver, shot himself in the abdomen, fatally.

—At Lanacoring, Md., Mary Pritchard, aged 19, was killed; Robert Diek, aged 20, probably fatally injured, and Abram Lynch, severely bruised, by the breaking of a sledge.

—An express train, running at full speed, ran into a covered wagon at Millersburg, Pa., demolishing it completely. Of the five occupants one, Martin Weaver, was killed, and the others were all severely injured.

—At New Orleans a family of four were poisoned by using oxalic acid by mistake for sugar in cooking. C. A. W. Milhaud died; the others it was thought would recover.

—Ida Moudy, daughter of Dr. A. Moudy, living near Greencastle, Ind., took three grains of morphine, through mistake, for quinine. She was not expected to recover.

—A 5-year-old son of Isaac Ruth, of New Albany, Ind., died from eating a dog-bone which had been left in the front yard by the police.

—Warren Cooper, brother to the Postmaster of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, was killed by lightning while stacking hay. His companion, Mr. Hildebrand, was severely stunned, two horses were killed, and the stack set on fire.

—At Staunton, Va., Johnnie Harris, aged 16, while employed in feeding staves to the equalizing saw in Young's saw-mill, fell against it, and, in a flash, was sawed through from his right hip to above the breast-bone. He lived one hour and 15 minutes.

—Near Paris, Ky., J. William Bedford accidentally shot and instantly killed an 8-year old colored boy, while out driving turkeys. Bedford was carrying a gun and leading his horse, and the hammers of the gun caught in the bridle, causing the discharge of both barrels.

**Foreign Notes.**  
—It is stated as a fact that the number of impecunious Americans in Paris is very large, and that the bankers have been solicited to make advances on jewels and personal effects.

—Gilmore's band, had hard luck as soon as they struck the Continent, and finally disbanded, after their advance agent had decamped with \$500 and left them to enter Germany unannounced.

—Germany is delighted with the piano playing of Miss Anna Bock, a young American girl of German descent, who has been taught by Liszt, and has astonished critical audiences in Cologne and Wiesbaden. A brilliant future is predicted for her.

—The French Government has seized certain property of the ex-Empress Eugenie as security for the restitution of considerable sums of money which the Bonapartes are said to owe France. A committee of investigation has reported that Napoleon III. owes the nation his allowance for September, 1870, which he drew in advance; also that the regular civil list was habitually exceeded by 30,000,000 francs, and finally, that he alienated a large extent of crown lands.

—The third auction sale of ex-Queen Isabella's jewels recently, in Paris, realized \$98,995. The principal set was a pair of ear-rings, composed of brilliant-cut diamonds, and of two pear-shaped pendants of brilliant-cut diamonds weighing 47 carats. For these \$64,000 was given by a connoisseur who possessed a remarkable collection of jewels from numerous countries. A brooch representing a butterfly with extended wings was bought by a jeweler at \$23,700 for a European Queen. The three sales realized \$199,703.

**Hot Weather Lyrics.**  
I'd like to be an Esquimaux  
And live on cakes of ice.  
I'd mix up cocktails all the day—  
So naughty—but so nice.  
—St. Louis Journal.

There's a land that is hotter than this,  
Where you only can bubble and hiss—  
O, go to that beautiful land.  
(Sing.) In the sweat by-and-by, etc.  
—Graphic.

Cucumbers, icebergs,  
Icebergs, cucumbers,  
Frost and snow, mountain-tops, oil-cloth and tin,  
Icebergs and polar bears,  
Hurricanes, cold thunder,  
Well-bottoms, ice-wagons, take us all in.  
—Courier-Journal.

When all the air is hot as blazes,  
When perspiration damps the brow,  
When ne'er a gentle zephyr raises  
The blossomy spray that tips the bow;  
When earth knows no sweet rain to lave her,  
When fierce above appears to linger Sol—  
Ah, then begins to wane and waver  
Our firm set faith in Robert Ingersoll.  
—Puck.

Backward, roll backward, O Time on your  
beet!  
Give us a chilly snap, shut off the heat;  
North wind come back from the boreal  
shore;  
Let loose your stiff, bracing breeze once  
more.

Just to us, pity us, don't you undo us,  
Keep back that hot wave post-marked "St. Louis."  
Now, while the Granger's niece sickles in  
sight,  
Give us an ice-berg sparkling and bright;  
Or our thermometer year cold sight keep,  
Temper the heat, Temper the heat!  
—Albany Journal.

There is a happy land,  
Far, far away—  
Free ice on every hand—  
No bills to pay.  
Oh, how the natives glow,  
Driving reindeer to and fro,  
Over ice and through the snow,  
Three times a day.

They never do get hot,  
Far, far away—  
No thermometers they've got—  
No fens have they.  
No lion coats they wear  
While they chase the polar bear  
And the walrus from his lair,  
Etcetera.  
—St. Louis Journal.

French Business Women.

The editor of the *Baltimore American* writes from Paris: In examining the French department a great many of the depositors appear before the jury accompanied by their wives, who take an active part in describing the mode of manufacture of the goods, and expatiate most volubly on their superiority and the uses for which they are intended. In many cases it is evident that the wife is the master-mind of the establishment, and knows more about the business than the husband. It is a well known fact that there are few really prosperous business men in Paris who do not owe a great deal of their success to their wives. Indeed, there are very few establishments in Paris, wholesale or retail, in which women do not occupy most of the important positions of trust and responsibility. In many of the largest and most successful establishments the wife is the principal business manager. American merchants who come here annually to buy goods state that they transact most of their business with the wives of the merchants, who are generally on duty in the wholesale houses during business hours. When purchasing goods nearly all important questions are answered by the female clerks or saleswomen, the male clerks being mostly engaged in the handling of goods, leaving all the brainwork for the women. In many cases the wife is called upon to make agreements or answer questions when the husband is present, indicating that she was the brains of the establishment. There can be no doubt that the average French woman is superior to the average Frenchman in business tact and enterprise, as she is also superior to him in physical development and address. When passing the small stores at night the wife is seen at the desk, pen in hand, keeping books, and thousands of the smaller stores of Paris are kept by women. They undoubtedly have great business capacity, energy, and enterprise, and take more than their full share in supplying the means for the maintenance of the household. A Frenchman remarked in our hearing the other day that he believed there are as many women in Paris who support their husbands as there are husbands who support their wives.

The Study of Grasses.

Next to the study of ferns, perhaps that of grasses has of late years been most popular. Their graceful shapes, variety of species and abundance render them attractive objects to the young botanical student. They carpet our English meadows, and give them that characteristic greenery which is so vividly remembered when one is far away from them. The cattle upon a thousand hills browse upon their succulent and nutritious foliage. The larvae of innumerable insects find abundance of food in the wilderness where grasses grow. The geologists know they were among the oldest flowering plants to appear on the earth; the geographer is aware of their singularly extensive distribution and peculiar adaptation to climate. The botanist has of late years identified their method of fertilization with one of the most singular and unlooked-for relationships between plants and other objects. No other kind of herbage contributes so largely to the support of the animal world, from the grass-feeding kangaroos of Australia to man. Our staple food is prepared from their seeds, and this has been the case since pre-historic times, so that it is impossible to tell for a certainty from what species such cultivated forms as our common wheat were originally derived. Mankind has forgotten the very sources of this primeval food supply. Even in classic times it was found necessary to invent some such poetic fable as that of Ceres, to account for the benefits which these plants have conferred on man. How long the seeds of certain grasses have been the staple food of our race we can not tell. Half-burnt wheat and other corn grains have been found in abundance among the debris of the Swiss lake dwellings, showing that it was grown and garnered for food at that early epoch. If it be true that the wild grass known as *Egilops*, found in western Asia, is the original of the common wheat we now so largely cultivate, then the latter may have been first reared by our Aryan ancestors, and have accompanied their migrations from the time when the first colony went forth into the unknown world outside their home.

The inconspicuous and uncolored flowers of all grasses are not without a reason. Within the last six or seven years it has been proved that the cause of flowers possessing beautiful corollas and sweet perfumes is that these qualities may attract the insect tribes. The latter carry the pollen-grains from flower to flower, and thus unconsciously benefit them by crossing. And, as a rule, the plants which bear the most attractive flowers require to be crossed in proportion to their attractiveness, whilst less showy corollas do not require crossing in the same degree. It is now known beyond doubt that this principle of cross-fertilization in plants is one of the most important and necessary. The shapes, internal and external, of flowers are frequently designed with special reference to bringing it about. Only two agents are universally capable of crossing all kinds of flowers—insects and the wind. The former are attracted by bright colors and sweet perfumes, and the flowers which require insect aid are therefore obliged to display these attractions. The latter is an unconscious agent, on which color and perfume would be completely thrown away. Therefore the flowers habitually crossed by the wind do not possess showy blossoms; and hence the reason why grasses, which are chief among the wind-crossed flowers, have such an unpretending and inconspicuous kind of inflorescence.

The perfumes of grasses are not so abundant as those of other plants, although they are quite as distinctive. The well known smell of new-mown hay is evolved chiefly by the sweet-smelling vernal grass and no other. The presence of this species is quite sufficient to perfume the rest and to produce that most delightful of summery smells, the odor of the hay-field. The perfume can now be artificially imitated from the products of gas-tar, and a regular manufacture of it is carried on for perfumery purposes.—*Cassell's Magazine*.

Canada's New Governor.

The Marquis of Lorne, who has just been made Governor-General of Canada, is the eldest son and heir of the Duke of Argyll, and was married in 1871 to Princess Louise, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, that being the first instance of the marriage of a subject to the daughter of a reigning sovereign. The Marquis has been in public life for 10 years past, for, in 1868, when he was only 23, he was returned to Parliament as member from Argyllshire. When his father, in 1868, went into office under the Gladstone Administration as Secretary of State for India, the son acted as his private secretary. Lord Walter Campbell, who made a somewhat protracted stay in New York several years ago and was well known in society, is a younger brother of the Marquis of Lorne. The Duke of Argyll, whose titles descend to his eldest son, is the most powerful of the Scottish noblemen. He is hereditary Master of the Queen's Household in Scotland, Chancellor of the University of St. Andrews, a Trustee of the British Museum and hereditary Sheriff and Lord-Lieutenant of Argyllshire. His political service has been long and active, and he has also written an elaborate book entitled "The Reign of Law." His son is also an author, and published several years ago a volume of poems.

—A Boston minister of the sensational order takes a steamboat load of people down the harbor of a Sunday to an island, and there preaches a sermon to them, all for a round-trip price.

On to Bear Paw.

There is gold in the Bear Paw Mountains—gold in paying quantities—whole loads of gold! At least that is what the best authority that can be obtained says upon the subject. One of the best indications that there is truth in the rumor about gold in these mountains is the stampede of miners from the Black Hills to the new diggings. From a reliable source we learn that the excitement over the discovery of gold in the Bear Paw Mountains is raging high at Deadwood. In fact, it is said to increase as each daily mail from the north brings cheering information. The news spread like wild-fire, and Bear Paw is said to be the popular theme, and is spoken of enthusiastically by all. The exodus from the hills is very great and threatens to not only increase largely, but also to drain the country of what little current money it contains. The Bismarck coach departs every afternoon loaded down with passengers who are obliged to engage passage several days ahead in order to secure it. Several large parties have already departed across the country, and many more are preparing for the trip. Already about one hundred men of all classes of society, old and young, have taken up their line of march to the Bear Paw Mountains. The latest and most reliable information in regard to the new mines is from J. J. Healey, a well known Montanarian, who has visited the locality himself, and writes intelligently and in a very encouraging tone. In a letter to John Manning, Sheriff of Deadwood, he states that but meager developments have as yet been made, but what little has been done demonstrates beyond all doubt that gold in paying quantities exists in all of the many streams flowing from the mountains. There is no danger to be felt by miners from the Indians, as Gen. Brooke and a large force of soldiers have located in the mountains for the purpose of protecting them from the hostile Indians. The fact that many frontiersmen well acquainted with the country have joined the stampede is additional evidence that the rumors of the existence of gold in the mountains have a groundwork of merit.

The effect of the stampede upon the Black Hills country is, for the present at least, very injurious. It is dispossessing the hills of many successful miners and business men, and, as each man gathers up and takes with him more or less money, the circulating medium in that country is said to be distressingly scarce. The stampede promises to largely increase as the days go by. Every report that comes from the mountains brings new enthusiasm with it. The Bear Paw Mountains are admirably adapted for mining, and there will, no doubt, be even a greater rush there than to the Black Hills, and, from all indications, with better results.

Arrangements are being made for a large party to go from Sioux City to Bear Paw by steamer. The boat will leave this city on Saturday, Aug. 24. A party has contracted with Mr. Ed. Cummings, and he is to furnish transportation for 200 men with their outfits. The boat will land the men within 25 miles of the diggings. Already many have expressed their intention to go. As soon as arrangements are fully made every thing will be made known. Sioux City will be the point of starting for all who wish to go from points east. Arrangements will be made to transport as many as desire to go. All who intend to visit the new Eldorado should take passage from Sioux City on boats to run direct from here to the diggings.—*Sioux City Journal*.

The Honey-Bee.

The honey-bee is the emblem of order and industry. The queen is the mother of the whole hive, and her eggs become males, females and workers, or neuters, which last make the combs and cells, and collect the honey. The queen produces some thousands of workers, and then males, which the workers kill at the end of summer. The workers attend the queen with anxious respect. If she die, they raise a new one by various arts from a working worm. Two queens can not live in the same hive, and one is destroyed. The females or workers have a sting, but the males or drones none. In proportionate size the queen bee is eight and one-half, the male seven and the workers six. A queen will lay 200 eggs daily for fifty or sixty days, and the eggs are hatched in three days. The workers are five days in the worm state, and in twenty days they become bees. The males are six or seven days in the worm state, and twenty-four days in becoming perfect bees. A queen is five days in the worm state, and in sixteen days is perfect. When eggs are converted into queens the old queen destroys them, or if there are two young queens they fight until one has killed the other. One author asserts that a single queen has produced 100,000 bees in a season. Every thing depends on the workers; they collect the honey, make wax and build the combs; they supply the worms with food and protect the entrance of the hive, separate business being performed by classes. There are about 3,000 cells in a comb of a foot square. Their first purpose is as nurseries for the young, and they are then cleaned and filled with honey. Five thousand bees weigh a pound. Twenty or thirty pounds of honey are generally got from a hive; sometimes eighty or 100 pounds, and even more. A swarm of bees contains from 10,000 to 20,000 in a natural state and from 30,000 to 40,000 in a hive. All the experiments on bees prove that love for their queen and her progeny is the sole stimulus to their persevering industry. Their joy, grief and other passions are distinguished in the tone of their humming, which to them are articulate sounds.